
State Government & Tribal Affairs
Committee

SSB 5271

Brief Description: Modifying provisions relating to candidate filing.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections (originally sponsored by Senators Oemig, McDermott and Swecker; by request of Secretary of State).

Brief Summary of Substitute Bill

- Eliminates the option to file a declaration of candidacy with the Secretary of State for candidates for single-county offices.
- Eliminates the filing fee requirement for declarations of candidacy for precinct committee officers.

Hearing Date: 3/26/09

Staff: Tracey O'Brien (786-7196)

Background:

In order to initiate a candidacy for office, one must file a declaration of candidacy. Historically, candidates for a single-county office filed with the county auditor and candidates for multi-county office filed with the Secretary of State (SOS). In 2005 the Legislature enacted legislation that allows candidates for single-county offices to have the option of filing either with the county auditor or the SOS. This option exists for candidates for over 250 offices.

Summary of Bill:

The option for single-county candidates to file a declaration of candidacy with the SOS is eliminated. The corresponding fee provisions are updated to reflect that fees for offices that include only a single county shall be paid to the county auditor. Filing fees for statewide office and for multi-county offices shall be paid to the SOS.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The \$1 filing fee required to be filed with a declaration of candidacy for precinct committee officer (PCO) is eliminated.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.